



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250
Pennsylvania Field Office • Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov



Media Contact: Marc Tosiano, 717-787-3904
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

Pennsylvania Cherry Production

HARRISBURG, PA, Jun 27, 2006 - - - Pennsylvania's 2006 tart cherry production is forecast at 4.2 million pounds, 62 percent above last year's production of 2.6 million pounds, according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Tart cherry trees wintered well, and a strong bloom was accompanied by favorable conditions that favored pollination. Weather after pollination was good and fruit size and quality have been excellent.

Pennsylvania is no longer included in the sweet cherry estimating program.

U.S. tart production for 2006 is forecast at 256 million pounds, 5 percent below 2005 production but 20 percent above production in 2004. Beginning with the 2005 forecast, Colorado is no longer in the tart cherry estimating program.

Michigan, the largest producing state, expects a crop of 185 million pounds, a decrease of 11 percent from the 2005 crop but 20 percent above production in 2004.

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